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RED PROPAGANDA FLOOD HERE

Close to 2,000,000 pieces of Communist propaganda - magazines, pamphlets, films and the like originating in Russia, Iron Curtain countries and China - pour into San Francisco every year.

This startling disclosure was made to the House subcommittee on un-American activities as it opened local hearings today.

The testimony came from Irving Fishman, who was appointed by the Treasury Department two years ago to the job of controlling the propaganda flood on a national basis. Some 45 American ports are under his jurisdiction.

Embassies' Roles

Fishman revealed also that in a sampling of 100 attaches of Iron Curtain countries' embassies and consulates, 82 were engaged in subversive activities - 32 in intelligence work against this country, 21 in Communist party activities and 29 in other fields.

He said the check was made by the Central Intelligence Agency and that these Red aides are immune from the laws against receiving propaganda material because they are registered as foreign agents.

Wants It Labeled

Chairman Clyde Doyle of the subcommittee asked Fishman to submit a detailed memorandum of recommended legislation to stem the propaganda tide, declaring:

"We feel that anybody who wants to read it should have it. But the recipient who disseminates it should say so, and what it is."

This spate of foreign political material, Fishman said, is intercepted under the authority of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Aimed at Students

"Most of it," he continued, is directed to many student organizations and colleges in the United States."

During August, September and October, he continued, more than 490,000 pieces of Communist propaganda were intercepted, and recently he and his aides caught a major distribution of a publication called Student Week.

Bid to Meet

This one was directed to every school and student organization above junior high level and invited students everywhere to attend an international meet last month in one of the Iron Curtain countries.

In further testimony Fishman declared Communist propaganda appears in practically all of the world's languages, but that he has yet to see a piece of it labeled as propaganda.

Communist agents, he went on, handle the distribution if the stuff slips past the government. He described one shipment his department intercepted as a batch of purported newsreel and feature films designed to prove this country used germ warfare in Korea.

"Red Glories"

Much of the material, he added, attempts to depict the "glories" of life under the Soviets, with a lot of this dealing with Hungary recently.

"It was completely contrary to what has been reported in our newspapers," he said.

Fishman's appeared followed brief testimony from Collector of Customs Chester McPhee, who said that 80 per cent of the 20,000 ships that enter this port annually are from the Orient.

The hearings are being held in the jam-packed courtroom of federal Judge Michael J. Roche, with deputy marshals on guard to prevent outbursts.

Purposes of Group

Subcommittee Chairman Doyle of Los Angeles, opened today's session with a slashing statement of the two major purposes of his group.

"The first of these," he said, "concerns the devious influx of Communist propaganda, which is flooding many areas of the United States from sources behind the Iron Curtain.

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PROBERS HERE ASSAIL RED DIPLOMATS

By Peter Triable

A House Un-American Activities Subcommittee, meeting here yesterday, blasted the diplomatic corps of Soviet-bloc countries as subversive and their embassies as possible circulation centers for Communist propaganda.

Richard Arens, director of the subcommittee, told an open hearing he had the Central Intelligence Agency check the backgrounds of 100 "Iron Curtain country" diplomats picked at random.

The CIA, he said, reported that 32 of the group were in "active intelligence work," 21 were in Communist organization work and 29 were involved in "other subversive activities."

20 Witnesses

The testimony was made as the subcommittee, composed of Representatives Clyde Doyle (Dem-Calif.), chairman, and Gordon Scherer (Rep-Ohio) and Harold Valde (Rep-Ill.) called about 20 witnesses to the courtroom of Federal Judge Michael J. Roche in the Post Office Building.

The Congressmen said they were interested in two things:

1. A "flood of Communist propaganda" that is coming into the United States by mail, and
2. Political subversion by Communist agents.

The diplomatic corps worried them, they said, because even if more stringent laws were passed to control propaganda entering this country, diplomatic immunity would allow the material to be sent to embassies and passed on from there.

Checking Unit

As the first major witness, the subcommittee called Irving Fishman, a deputy collector of customs in New York and the director of three special units that check incoming bulk mail shipments for propaganda.

Fishman revealed that one of the most active units under his control is in San Francisco. The others are at New York and Chicago.

During August, September and October, Fishman said the San Francisco unit uncovered 156,575 packages containing 490,330 pieces of printed matter

that were considered propaganda.

Under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, he said, all matter determined to be propaganda from foreign countries is supposed to be labeled as such. He has yet to find any such publications so labeled, he testified.

Most of the material coming through San Francisco, he said, is printed in Russia, packaged in Red China and mailed here through Hong Kong.

Sacks As Evidence

To back up his testimony he brought into the courtroom six large mail sacks. Most bore the stencil, "Republique Populaire De Chine."

Bundles of pamphlets in the sacks were addressed to persons throughout the United States. From them came titles such as "Woman's China," "People's China," "New China Advances into Socialism," and "Social Welfare Comes to Hungary."

Velde said the subcommittee did not want to stop such material from coming into the U. S. but that propaganda should be labeled as such and regulated by the Department of Justice.

MacPhee On Stand

Chester MacPhee, Collector of Customs here, also testified briefly.

While no unwilling witnesses were called during the initial session, Doyle made it clear that any person who created a disturbance during the hearing would be tossed out. Four were ejected from committee hearings in Los Angeles last week.